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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Compassionate and merciful God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

As this House comes together at the end of the week, bless the work of its Members.

Give them strength, fortitude, and patience. Fill their hearts with charity, their minds with understanding, their wills with courage to do the right thing for all of America.

The work that they have is difficult work. May they rise together to accomplish what is best for our great Nation and, indeed, for all the world, for You have blessed us with many graces and given us the responsibility of being a light shining on a hill.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WELCH led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FURLONGHS

(Mr. WITTMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, this week, our civilian defense employees are at their desks, working fervently, after staying home for their first furlough day last week. Now they're having to take a furlough day each week for the next 11 weeks.

I have talked with folks in my district who are, to say the least, frustrated as our Nation and they are deeply, deeply affected by these furloughs. As one constituent said, they are "being held hostage."

The United States is the greatest Nation in the world and has the greatest military the world has ever known because we have citizens dedicated to serve—dedicated in spite of a lack of true leadership in Washington.

While the administration had other choices rather than to furlough these essential employees, they chose instead to make a political statement on the backs of our fellow citizens to spread the pain far and wide. Our Nation's defense will undoubtedly suffer.

I continue to urge the administration to utilize the flexibility it has, and I urge Congress to get to work on our Nation's defense legislation.

BRANDON WEBB

(Mr. BARROW of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARROW of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank a longtime staff member in my office, Brandon Webb.

After more than 6 years of service to the people of Georgia's 12th District, Brandon left my office to serve as legislative director for Congresswoman ROBIN KELLY of Illinois.

Brandon joined my staff in 2007 as a staff assistant, and climbed through the ranks to serve as senior legislative assistant. Brandon played an important role in crafting legislation, including a bill to cut the Federal vehicle fleet, saving the Federal Government over \$500 million; and he helped our communities by organizing free health fairs for families in the 12th District so they could get the care they need.

I would like to congratulate Brandon on his promotion with Congresswoman KELLY. I also congratulate him and his new bride, Sabrina, on their recent marriage.

I am honored to have had the privilege to work with Brandon, and on behalf of the people in Georgia he served for over 6 years, I would like to thank him for his hard work and dedication.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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